

Via Email

December 23, 2009

TO PARTIES REGISTERED IN PROCEEDING 169

Dear Sirs and Madams:

**RE ERCB PROCEEDING 169
APPLICATION NO. 1613543 BY SUNSHINE OIL SANDS LTD.
APPLICATION NO. 1616123 BY TOTAL E & P CANADA LTD.
APPLICATION NO. 1506272 BY PARAMOUNT ENERGY OPERATING
CORPORATION
GAS PRODUCTION AND SHUT IN APPLICATIONS
ATHABASCA OIL SANDS AREA**

On December 11, 2009, CNRL filed a motion in this proceeding asking the Board to order Sunshine Oil Sands Limited (SOL), Athabasca Oil Sands Corporation (AOSC), and Grizzly Oil Sands ULC (collectively the "Bitumen Owners") to provide pressure measurements from 8 bitumen bearing zones occurring over four different regions identified on a CNRL map that is attached as Schedule A to the motion. CNRL states it asked SOL and AOSC in information requests to provide the pressure information but that the requests were refused.

CNRL states the information is critical to the Board's determination of whether gas production is detrimental to potentially recoverable bitumen, and to CNRL's ability to respond to the shut in applications. CNRL also states that SOL and AOSC have the requested information or have the ability to obtain the information, and that CNRL does not. CNRL requests the Board make a decision on the motion as soon as possible as any pressure measurements ordered by the Board must be obtained during the winter season.

The materials filed by CNRL in relation to the motion are available in EPS at https://www3.eub.gov.ab.ca/eub/dds/EPS_Query/ProceedingSubmissionSearch.aspx?ProceedingId=169.

The submissions comprising the motion are:

- cover letter from EnerLAW LLP, dated December 11, 2009
- Motion by Canadian Natural Resources, dated December 11, 2009
- Written Submission by Canadian Natural Resources, dated December 11, 2009
- Affidavit (filed in EPS as Exhibits A - L)

The Board has reviewed the motion made by CNRL. Given CNRL's statement that any pressure measurements would have to be taken in the winter season the Board considers it appropriate to

ask the parties for their comments on the motion in a short time frame, but one that recognizes the upcoming holidays.

The Board has asked me to request that parties provide their written comments on CNRL's motion not later than January 8, 2010. The Board would be interested in comments addressing the substance or merits of the motion, or recommended process for dealing with the motion, or both.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (403) 355-4292.

Yours truly,

Gary D. Perkins
Board Counsel